

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), ECON, PFOR
SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI ON VP MONDALE VISIT/ECONOMIC SUMMIT

1. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL DINNER, DCM SPOKE WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI ABOUT THE UPCOMING VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. FOR ANDREOTTI THE KEY ISSUE FOR THIS VISIT IS TO ASSURE US SUPPORT FOR ITALY'S PARTICIPATION AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

2. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN THAT ITALY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT. ANDREOTTI NOTED THAT GISCARD HAD FIRST RAISED THE IDEA OF A MEETING WITH HIM IN TUSCANY IN DECEMBER. HE REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD TELEPHONED THE LEADERS OF THE UK, FRG, FRANCE AND JAPAN AND APPARENTLY THE CONVERSATIONS INVOLVED IN PART THE NEXT ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING. ANDREOTTI PROFESSED NOT TO BE CONCERNED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN CALLED BY THE NEW PRESIDENT, BUT SAID THAT IF, AFTER PARTICIPATING AT RAMBOUILLET AND PUERTO RICO, ITALY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEXT ECONOMIC SUMMIT, SUCH AN ACT WOULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. ANDREOTTI WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND WILL BE, WE BELIEVE, SERIOUSLY CONCERNED IF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IS UNABLE TO ASSURE HIM THAT THE US WILL INSIST ON ITALIAN PARTICIPATION AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 00887 201051Z

3. ITALY IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES MOST IN JEOPARDY ECONOMICALLY (AND PERHAPS POLITICALLY) IN THE ALLIANCE. THE PROSPECTS FOR RECOVERY DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO PUT THROUGH AN AUSTERITY PROGRAM. ANDREOTTI CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT IF ITALY SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SUMMIT MEETING, IT WOULD BE READ WITHIN ITALY AS A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN HIS GOVERNMENT BY THE US AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS. ACCORDINGLY, WE

STRONGLY URGE THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE BE PREPARED TO
GIVE ANDREOTTI ASSURANCES OF FULL US SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE.
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Message Attributes

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